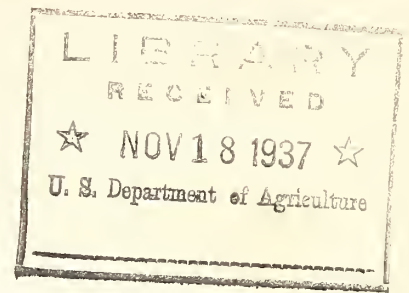


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LOOKING BACKWARD AND FORWARD - (Part II)

Saturday, November 6, 1937.

SALISBURY:

Here we are, back in Washington again. During the part of this program dedicated to the State reports of 4H achievement, this group here listened with admiration to the statements of progress made by Maryland 4-H Clubs and members. They were presented on the Farm and Home Hour station in Washington. But I know that each of you heard an equally inspiring report from your own or an adjacent State. Let's get back to Dr. Smith and Miss Warren, Miss Reese, Mr. Potter, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Sheffield and their reporting of the national trends in 4-H work.

Doctor Smith.

SMITH:

After joining listeners in their applause for the splendid state reports, we return to consideration of the national trends in Club work. We want to cover some of the new developments in organizing Clubs, and in the methods being followed. Ray Turner has always followed organization trends closely, so we'll call him to the stand first of all.

TURNER:

All right, Dr. Smith. From my observations in the Central States, I should say that these are the main trends:

First, the volunteer leaders everywhere are organizing into county 4-H councils. These councils plan the program for the whole county. And that is the main reason why there are more members enrolled in more projects than ever before.

SMITH:

Democracy in 4-H work too. The boys and girls and the local leaders plan the local program. That's as it should be. By the way, Miss Warren, in your statistical report, you forgot to tell us whether the increased number of members had been matched by an increased number of leaders.

WARREN:

It has. The first reports indicate about 10 thousand more local leaders this year than last year. A large number of these are former 4-H club members -

SMITH:

Good. Now, Ray, proceed please with your report on new things in Club organization in the Central States.

TURNER:

Well, not only have the leaders organized for planning. They are organizing for training. In the typical county of the middle west there will be three or four conferences a year where leaders may learn about new methods of conducting 4-H club programs as well as about new things in science and economics that can reenforce the work of their clubs. And recently the State Club staffs have been holding inter-State meetings. Four or more State Club staffs are now getting together at some central point. It all makes for a more rapid spread of new ideas and methods.

SMITH:

Next let's hear from the East. Charles Potter.

POTTER:

Everything Ray said goes for the East, too. I'd add that in some States the local leaders are organizing junior councils. The members of these councils are club officers. Through such councils the youngsters themselves help plan the programs.

TURNER:

That's true in our section, too. Forgot to mention it.

SMITH:

I think the development is general. In fact, I understand that there are some county junior councils in around 30 states. Now let's hear from the South. Charles Sheffield.

SHEFFIELD:

Ray and Charles have described the general trend for us. I'd like to add a note on the progress of 4-H work in Puerto Rico. The first Clubs were organized there only two years ago. This year there are 80 Clubs of girls with 1200 members. In six places, perhaps even more, the local people heard about the Clubs, and called in the county agents to organize them. They didn't wait for the agents to get around to their communities. As an example of individual achievement in these youngest 4-H clubs, I'd like to tell you about Herminio Marrero.

SMITH:

Please do.

SHEFFIELD:

Herminio lives on a 12-acre mountain farm. Two years ago, when he was 16, he got an invitation to join one of the first Clubs. He accepted. You can understand that land was scarce with a 12-acre farm supporting a large family. So Herminio's demonstrations were on tiny acreages. But on one-tenth of an acre he produced plantains worth over \$32 with cash expenses of less than \$7. By way of explanation, plantains are similar to bananas but in Puerto Rico they are cooked and often substituted for bread.

(more)

SHEFFIELD (continued)

On a tenth of an acre planted to yams he harvested a crop that returned \$30 above cash expense. But his personal profit wasn't the biggest result of Herminio's Club project. His father and most of the neighbors had quit growing plantains because of the damage done by the banana weevil. But under the demonstration instructions Herminio kept down the weevil by treating with hot water. Seeing how to control the insect, Herminio's father and three neighbors are growing plantains again this year.

SMITH:

"How far the little candle throws its beam....."

Well, Miss Reese, the Western report.

REESE:

I should tell an Hawaiian story to match Mr. Sheffield's Puerto Rican one. But the Hawaiian clubs have been going a longer time and I guess they don't rate a special story. As to organization: the things the others have said about the other sections apply generally in the West. It's really amazing to see how new ideas -- if they're good -- spread across this continent of ours both from the East and the West.

SMITH:

Yes, it is.

REESE:

I might add to what the others said that in the West all the State agricultural colleges now have organizations of former 4-H members. I know that's true elsewhere.

TURNER:

Yes, indeed. And it's easy to understand in our section. Over a third of the students enrolled in agriculture and home economics this year were former 4-Hers.

POTTER:

I think that's just about the general figure for the United States. As a footnote I might add that two 4-H Club houses are now on the campus at one eastern agricultural school -- Massachusetts Aggies at Amherst.

SHEFFIELD:

University of Georgia established a 4-H Club home for girls this year and the Florida State College for Women a Club for former 4-H members.

WARREN:

So it goes. Well, these reports from the sections confirm my observation that the trends in organization are toward having the 4-H Clubs an integral part of the local community, more conferring together by the local leaders and the member officers in county 4-H councils and junior councils, better and more extensive training of leaders in subject matter and methods, more services rendered by college groups of former 4-H members who have gone on to get higher education, and more organized work in those activities such as recreation, music and art that enlarge the viewpoint and enrich the lives of young and old alike.

SMITH:

Good summary, Miss Warren, I was just going to ask you to do us that service. Now about the changes and improvements in the programs of the clubs, aside from their projects. How does that go in the West, Miss Reese?

REESE:

If I tell the whole story there won't be anything new to add when you get back East again, I'm afraid. Well, more emphasis, I should say, on helping the individual member guard and improve his health. I mean, the trend is to help each member analyze health defects and eliminate them. Then, the trend is toward more aids for recreation. More 4-H camps. More closely organized and better instructed drama groups and musical organizations of the youngsters themselves. More information for the girls on how to meet the problems of the modern consumer -- how to buy so as to get the best quality for the price you can pay for packaged goods, fabrics, household gadgets, meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, fertilizers, and so on. That doesn't complete the list. Maybe Mr. Potter would like to go on from there.

POTTER:

You've covered a lot of the ground, Miss Reese. I want to add one thing. Namely, that there has been a great deal of progress toward introducing studies and recreational activities into the extension program so as to meet the needs of the young folks who have got just beyond the 4-H age, but haven't yet established themselves on farms and started to take part in the adult organizations.

TURNER:

I should have mentioned that trend for the Central States, too, Charles. And I would emphasize the progress in forming musical groups of the youngsters themselves, and in teaching appreciation of music.

WARREN:

You should, Mr. Turner, with all your years of experience in the National 4-H music hour.

SHEFFIELD:

If I may, I'd like to add two comments here on the progress of Club work in the South.

SMITH:

Go right ahead, Charles.

SHEFFIELD:

One comment is that the 4-H club programs have been arranged to be of service to the lower-income families of our section. The proof of this lies in the fact that in Arkansas, for example, more than half of the 60 thousand 4-H Club members come from tenant and sharecropper families.

My other comment is that the 4-H Club program is proving well adapted to the needs of Negro families. Negro 4-H Club enrollment in the Southern States increased by 20 thousand this year.

SMITH:

Those are important observations.

SALISBURY:

Dr. Smith, I wonder if you wouldn't give us now a summary of the year's progress and some comment on its meaning to the welfare of rural -- and of urban -- America.

SMITH:

Friends, everywhere:

You have just been listening to some of the high lights in the achievement records of 4-H Club members from a national standpoint. You have been told that 1937 stands as the great year in the history of the 4-H Club movement which is today reaching in its influence around the world.

In summarizing the results of 4-H club work for 1937, we would call attention again to the fact that any rural boy or girl anywhere in the United States, whether living on the farm or in the smaller towns, can join a 4-H club and secure the advantages of its training and fellowship. The price of membership is the doing of some worthwhile piece of real work on the farm or in the home under the direction of a club leader, and doing it in a better way.

You can find out more about these clubs in your neighborhood by getting in touch with your county extension agents, who usually have headquarters at the county court house, or by writing to your State extension director at your State agricultural college.

We would recall in closing, too, that it is not play training but real training that each boy and girl gets in 4-H Club work. It's real training when you drive a team and plow the land, plant corn or cotton, fertilize and cultivate the crop, harvest and feed or market the product, make some money, put it in the bank, or buy some needed thing for family or personal use.

It's real training when a girl grows a garden, gathers and sells her fresh vegetables or fruit, cans the surplus, and learns how to prepare the product for the table and fit it into the family diet.

It's real training when a boy raises a litter of pigs to maturity, keeps them free from disease, feeds them for economical growth, keeps a record of costs, learns how to judge pigs, makes an exhibit at the county, State, or regional fair, and carries off the blue ribbon.

It's real training when you take part in a club meeting, conducted in accordance with Parliamentary practice, and tell how you are coming along with your club work, the trials you have had, the difficulties overcome. You grow in personality and knowledge of polite behavior when you associate with others of the club group in song and play and social conversation and other activities.

It's real growth and education when you take part in club committee work, make a report, cooperate with others, take part in club camps, go on nature hikes and actually do the thousand and one things that go along with the real work of the 4-H clubs to add interest and adventure and culture to it. That is what 4-H Club work means -- real training.

We want again to express our sincerest thanks to the 8,500 extension agents, the 130,000 fine men and women and older club youth who have guided 4-H club work through the year and the million farm fathers and mothers who have helped make 4-H club work what it is today -- the most significant, far-reaching rural movement in all America.

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